Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 21 - 27, 2019

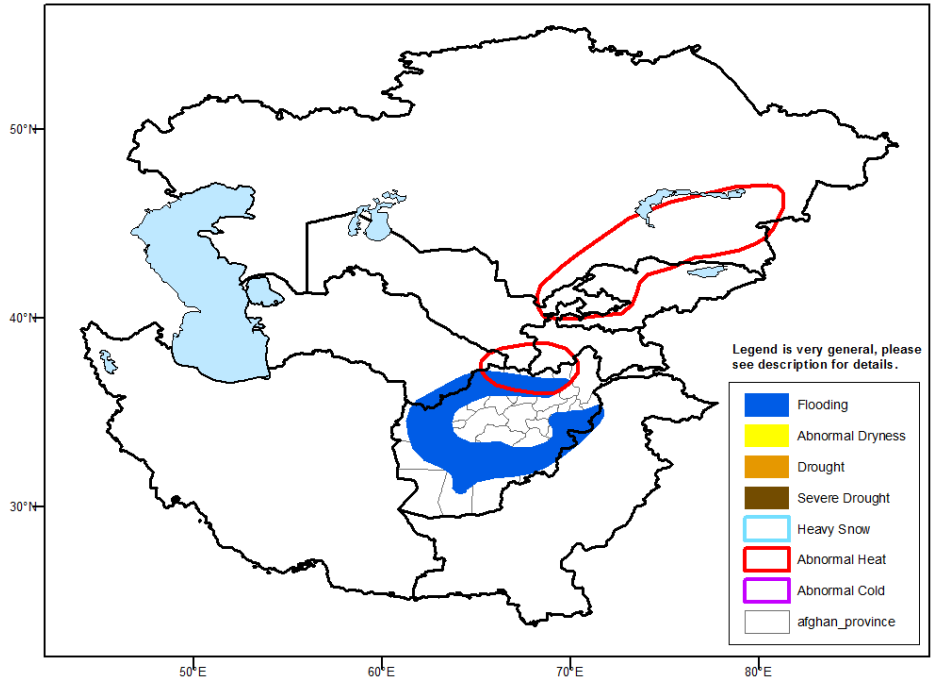
Temperatures:

Temperatures across much of the region were once again above normal during the third week of March. The warm air mass was centered over southern/western Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan where maximum temperature anomalies were as much as 8-12°C above average. Double-digit maximum temperatures were observed over much of southern and western Kazakhstan. However, temperatures remained a few degrees cooler than normal in southern Afghanistan and Pakistan. The GFS model indicates that the current pattern will persist with above-normal temperatures situated over many of the same areas. An abnormal heat hazard is posted where temperatures may exceed 10°C above average.

Precipitation:

Another low pressure system has brought more widespread precipitation to southern portions of the region. Areas across Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan received 5mm to locally more than 25mm liquid equivalent. Areas to the north were mostly dry during March's third week. Frequent precipitation has occurred across Afghanistan since early January resulting in widespread moisture surpluses and above-normal snow water equivalent in many higher elevations. However, Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan and northeast Afghanistan exhibit seasonal moisture deficits.

Conditions across the southern tier of the Central Asia region are forecast to remain rainy with snow in the highest elevations. Total precipitation is likely to exceed 25mm liquid equivalent in many areas. Additional rainfall on top of a heavy melting snow pack and already high rivers is likely to result in flooding over many lower elevation areas of Afghanistan. Scattered lighter precipitation is forecast in western Kazakhstan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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